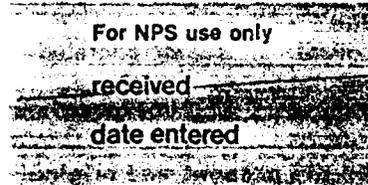


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Colonel Hiram M. Hiller house

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 570 North Washington not for publication

city, town Kahoka vicinity of congressional district

state Missouri code 029 county Clark code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Hiller

street & number 570 North Washington

city, town Kahoka vicinity of state Missouri 63445

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Clark County Courthouse

city, town Kahoka state Missouri 63445

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Clark County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date FY 83-84 federal state county local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Program

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Siting and Orientation: The Hiller house occupying a corner lot is little changed over the past 110 years in its exterior appearance. The lot and the John Hiller subdivision were both carefully located topographically; the Hiller plat lies on the highest, best-drained land within Kahoka's municipal limits and the Colonel Hiram Hiller lot was strategically placed within that survey. The east-facing front door looks toward the courthouse square two blocks away; four blocks south of the house lies the public square and primary commercial district; three blocks north Washington street intersects Colonel Hiller's subdivision and the former site of the Hiller-sponsored Kahoka College (see figures).

These spatial congruities had complements in the built environment. The Hiller-sponsored Italianate courthouse could easily be seen during the nineteenth century from Colonel Hiller's two story vernacular Victorian-Italianate frame dwelling. The Kahoka College, seen from the Hiller house at the north end of Washington street, was a Victorian-Italianate I house in plan. In addition, Colonel Hiller's law and real estate partner, Charles Matlock, built a two story Victorian frame house with the same slightly irregular perimeter that contains the Hiller house. Thus, during the late nineteenth century, Colonel Hiller's family could stand on their corner lot and see the Kahoka College, see the courthouse from their upstairs windows and second story veranda, and look southward into the public square.

Material Landscape: Colonel Hiller's house exemplifies the conservative nature of Missouri Midwestern rural buildings. Its simplicity, absence of sophisticated ornaments, economy of production and cost, and flexibility in use and adaptation have all contributed to its preservation by the Hiller descendants.

The front facade has a single leaf entrance with transom. The slightly recessed door exhibits paneled surrounds with molded caps. A truncated hip-roofed porch wraps around the south and east sides of the front ell. Original square posts with molded faces and cutwork brackets remain intact. Porch eaves are also molded and feature smaller paired brackets. The original wood railing on the porch roof has been replaced with ornate iron cresting. Windows are square shaped double sash with 4/4 panes and pedimented headers.

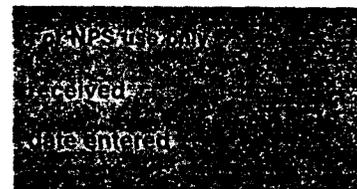
A short gable peak ell protrudes on the south side of the main block. It has a three-sided bay with recessed decorative panels beneath the windows. A single leaf entrance with transom is at the upper level of this projection and opens east onto the porch roof.

The gable ends of the house have substantial molded returns and a wide raking cornice. Matching capped cornerboards provide conservative ornament. On the north side is another three-sided bay enclosing a modern bathroom, but constructed to complement the exterior of the south bay. A single leaf entrance opening to the rear stairway is at the west end of the north facade. A molded water table course extends around the house.

Pine lumber for the house came from Wisconsin to Keokuk, Iowa, where sawyers manufactured it into dimension lumber and shipped it to Kahoka. The front stairway is walnut with a truncated six-sided newel post and one turned spindle per riser. The interior has molded woodwork and paneled doors with transoms that are open. The south bay functions as a window seat. East of the bay window is a stained glass topped window which is an

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 7 Page 1

enlargement of a former door. In 1885 Colonel Hiller built an indoor bathing room and a kitchen that is the two story addition at the southwest corner of the house. It replaced an open-air lattice porch. In 1934 the Hiller family added an indoor toilet. Original floors were pine; an oak floor was laid during the 1930s.

During the mid-to-late 1960s Colonel Hiller's great-grandson, Hiram Hiller and his wife, Anne, embarked on a colossal work of restoration and remodeling. All ten rooms, two and one-half baths, and a new basement received a substantive and cosmetic treatment. The plastered interior was removed in favor of new dry wall. The Hillers installed new wiring, plumbing, expanded bathroom facilities, and heating. The new furnace became the seventh system in a series of wood, coal, oil, coal, oil, oil and the current hot air furnace which replaced former stove flues in every room. The Hillers saved the original woodwork and painstakingly replaced it throughout the house. The front bedroom still retains an extra strip of molding designating it as the original parlor. Floors were repaired and refinished. The layers of old roof came off and a new roof installed. Preserved in the Hiller housebook are samples of original wallfurnishings so that visitors may see how faithful the restoration is to original patterns. The living room has a moorish patterned ceiling paper and an 18" figured border. New draperies, wood finished, colors and art glass complement a Victorian ambience. Tall antique walnut cabinets reside in the kitchen beside a new pantry built to resemble a Victorian model. A distinctive 8x20 art glass, retrieved from a picture window in the nearby Charles Hiller house, became a striking kitchen ornament surrounding the range hood for two stoves (His and Hers stoves were installed to accommodate the talents of both Mr. and Mrs. Hiller, authors of a regional recipe book).

The house was raised in order to dig and pour a full concrete basement. When finished the house rested on a new concrete underpinning. Considerable basement space is allocated for winemaking and storage of Kahoka area antique material culture. Storm windows have replaced shutters and three stained glass windows added--two having a seasonal progression motif depicted with irises.

Of considerable significance is the presence of numerous family heirlooms. During and after the Hiller remodeling, scattered friends and acquaintances returned former Hiller furnishings that had been purchased in sales long ago. An original parlor set of settee and chair as well as furnishings in the upstairs bedroom and hallway vividly recall the Victorian generation. A once popular Victorian hallstand in the front hallway has been with the house for a century. The mahogany secretary came from Colonel Hiller's law office; the Colonel's daughter, Lida, had used it in Kahoka's first library. A hand painted lamp globe, marble-topped walnut bedroom furniture, Oriental paintings and rugs, and Eastlake furnishings from Mrs. Hiller's family and from area house sales purchased by Hiram Hiller completed the Victorian interior. The original arbor in the yard south of the modern kitchen was enlarged and Mrs. Hiller laid a patterned brick sidewalk in the south and east yard.

The house not only contains a regionally special Victorian landscape, but it also is home for the extensive collections of the Hiller family. The photographs, manuscripts, letters, diaries, housebook, business records, Civil War reminiscences and genealogical documents extending over the past couple of centuries make the Hiller house a virtual repository for Kahoka and Clark County history. Indeed, the Hillers field continuous inquiries concerning the heritage of the local area.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates fall, 1874-sp. 1875 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Colonel Hiram Hiller house is eligible for enrollment on the National Register of Historic Places according to Criterion B to wit Union veteran Colonel Hiram M. Hiller demonstrated a role as a quintessential Victorian-age promoter of a new social order following the Civil War in rural Missouri. Exhibiting an anxious spirit of gain as an expectant capitalist, he successfully speculated in the founding of a new county seat town, Kahoka, thereby insuring its colonization, and as a real estate speculator entering a low threshold of opportunity in 1870 in Kahoka, he capitalized several town businesses and exerted numerous leadership roles, including the founding of the Clark County courthouse. Hiller helped induce the Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska railroad to construct their line through Kahoka by giving the RR a right-of-way. Colonel Hiller's house retains its original exterior integrity as the oldest domestic structure in Kahoka north of the railroad. Under Hiller and Company, the John Hiller subdivision was organized and segregated into a Victorian middle class landscape. Hiram Hiller participated as a county officer and as a town planner on the Kahoka Board of Trustees. He founded the county's first bank, an insurance company and sponsored a seat of business culture, the Hiller Block, on the courthouse square. He contributed to the foundation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church as well as contributing to the Methodist Episcopal South and Presbyterian churches. He co-sponsored the establishment of the Kahoka College, the Clark County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, and sponsored young aspiring attorneys to read law in his office. The story of Colonel Hiram M. Hiller is about a man who fought the Civil War over the future of the United States and returned home to Clark County as a modernizer, promoter and aggressive town-builder and influenced the development of a town at every level of social, economic, political and institutional history. The end product exemplifies Missouri's move from the Far West in popular imagination to the Middle West. The specific landscape championed by Hiller is what cultural geographer, D.W. Meinig, has called one of America's three representative symbolic landscapes: Main Street of Middle America.¹

The significant activities of Colonel Hiram Hiller can be summarized under the following areas of significance:

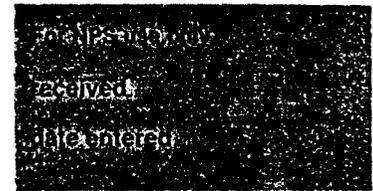
Commerce: Hiller's large local holdings in real estate, as founder of two local banks, including the first one in the region, and as founder of a local insurance company all provided important business foundations in a town growing from 200 to 2,000.

Community planning: Hiller, as an attorney and real estate speculator, successfully promoted the development of a new county seat town, Kahoka.

Education: Hiller played a crucial role in the founding of Kahoka's only historic local academy, the Kahoka College.

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 8 Page 1

Counties, towns and dispersed rural settlements take pride in first families, especially those who contributed their life's energies to the local area. Such is the case in Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri with the conspicuous presence of Colonel Hiram M. Hiller. Throughout rural Missouri during the years following the Civil War, Union military officers returned home and led movements to stabilize, modernize and capitalize local societies. Status associated with being on the side of the victors, military pensions that represented a significant cash flow in a money scarce economy, the experiences and skills developed in an institutional framework like the military, possessors of an articulate literacy, the vision that future society could be molded, improved, and developed for nineteenth century progress all combined in the mindset of some veteran officers; these consequences allowed them to continue in post-War leadership roles. Into a threshold of opportunity stepped Colonel Hiram M. Hiller and as an expectant capitalist Hiller shaped the landscape and destinies of Kahoka, Missouri for a generation.

Hiller's ancestors had immigrated to southeast Pennsylvania in the eighteenth century and by 1758 they had moved to southwest Pennsylvania and resided on a farm in the Monongahela River valley in Greene County, Pennsylvania. William Hiller married Charlotte Milliken and one of their sons, Hiram Milliken Hiller, born 23 April 1834 is the primary subject of this writing.²

As a youngster Hiram Hiller attended the subscription school of a relative, Aunt Betsy Heaton. At age fourteen he became an apprentice to a Baptist minister who was a printer in Morgantown, located near the Monongahela River in Virginia south of the Pennsylvania line. Hiller worked for several newspapers, the last one in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The experience had a life long influence on the young tradesman as he was known for his recitations of Ben Franklin maxims.

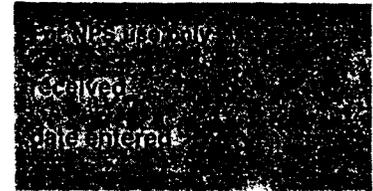
Hiller had several years of an artisans' experience by the time he reached age twenty-one. Then his Uncle Hiram Heaton Milliken insisted upon Hiller's presence in Athens, Missouri where Milliken operated a rural grocery and dry goods store. In 1855 Hiller arrived at Athens to care for a nearly bankrupt store and a minor sister and brother. Two years later Hiller returned to Pennsylvania to bring a bride to Missouri.³

Hiram M. Hiller and Sarah Fulton Bell married on 27 August 1857 in Greene County, Pennsylvania. Sarah had taught school for several terms in Greene County and her father's house was known for its large collection of periodical literature including the New York Tribune, Philadelphia North American, and papers from Washington, Brownsville and Waynesburg in southwest Pennsylvania. Her upbringing in part accounted for the large Victorian library that she and her husband later assembled in Kahoka. Sarah received a dowry to take to Missouri that included a feather bed, pair of pillows, a number of quilts, a pair of wool blankets, a blue coverlet and \$300. Over the years Sarah would prove her own ability to manage family affairs and influence civic promotions in Missouri. After the Hiller's return to Clark County, Missouri some of their Pennsylvania kin followed them to Athens.⁴

With the outbreak of hostilities in 1861 Hiram Hiller and I.N. Lewis from Keokuk, Iowa, attempted to negotiate with the contending powers for a neutrality to include all territory in Missouri north of the Missouri River. Hiller and Lewis went to St. Louis to visit General John Fremont, while others journeyed to confer with Confederate authorities. The local diplomats never gained an audience with Fremont. They returned home to Athens

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 8

Page 2

and Keokuk, and ironically, the following Monday morning the competing sympathies in the region fought the northernmost battle of the War in Missouri--the Battle of Athens, 5 August 1861. Hiram Hiller enlisted in the Union Army as a private.⁵

Hiller probably saw intermittent duty as a soldier, but otherwise he continued as a local merchant in Athens. Finally he enlisted in the Missouri State Militia, 2nd Missouri Cavalry and Governor Hamilton R. Gamble commissioned Hiller a Lieutenant Colonel on June 4, 1863.⁶ Like other Pennsylvanians in Missouri, Hiller sent his family to safety in Pennsylvania while he prepared for his career as an officer.

During 1863 and 1864, Lieutenant Colonel Hiller commanded the Union garrison at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. From there he directed Union troop movements into Arkansas; he detailed patrols to search for deserters hiding in the Ozarks; he mobilized his forces for the defense of Missouri during Confederate General Sterling Price's famous raid (fall 1864) into Missouri; he organized a removal of Union and Confederate sick and wounded to his garrison following the Battle of Pilot Knob; he directed forage (wagon) trains throughout southeast Missouri for the support of the Cape Girardeau garrison; he established guards at voting precincts in November, 1864; he commissioned Union patrols to contain rebels in south Missouri preventing disturbances near St. Louis; and Hiller administered picket duties, enforced curfew, assigned troops to haul water for local supply, appointed guards for boats on the Mississippi River and issued the host of orders that all commanding officers must during wartime. Clearly, Colonel Hiller played an active administrative role in the Union victory in Missouri.⁷ He must have felt a sense of pride at the completion of two years as commander of a Union garrison and as a result he was well known among many Unionists and Radical Republicans following the War.

Hiller retained links with the Union veterans; in 1867 Missouri governor Thomas Fletcher commissioned him 1st Lieutenant and Quartermaster in the 7th Battalion of the Missouri State Militia. Hiller's appointment probably came as an additional regional security measure against the bands of marauding thieves, known as the Prairie Banditti, who plagued northeast Missouri following the War. Hiller's friend, Major David McKee, in order to combat the Banditti, had organized the nationally famous Anti-Horse Thief Association as a vigilance committee in 1854 and institutionalized the Association with a Grand Lodge at Athens in 1863.⁸

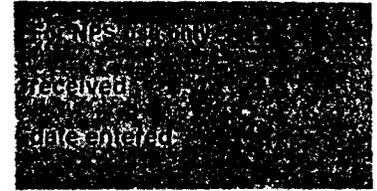
During the War Colonel Hiller had sent his money and government bonds to Sarah in Pennsylvania. In 1865, when he brought her back to Missouri they had bonds totaling \$4,500. Leaving Athens they relocated on the Beckner farm near the county seat, Waterloo, in Clark County. The Prairie Church neighborhood was their home from 1865 to 1872.

At Waterloo during the late 1860s Hiram Hiller's brothers, John and Will Hiller, managed a mercantile. Meanwhile Hiram became circuit court clerk and the Colonel formed a law partnership with Charles E. Matlock, another Republican, elected as county prosecuting attorney for 1867-72.

For a generation Clark County's rural population had depended on small port towns, Athens and St. Francisville on the Des Moines River, and Alexandria on the Mississippi River, as commercial entrepots; the villages of Waterloo and Alexandria alternated as the political center. But following the War the Hillers and others agitated for removal of the county seat to a central location in the county. Kahoka had for fifteen years been a small hamlet

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 8 Page 3

and the Hillers and Kahoka families envisioned a brighter future for all if Kahoka should become the new political center. In 1865, the county court approved a petition to relocate the seat within two miles of the hamlet, Kahoka. County voters in 1866, however, successfully upheld Clark City, located a few miles east of Kahoka, as the new site. The controversy between the two ensued until the Hiller-Kahoka faction, representing a village of 200, offered the best deal to the county and won. The victory began the development of a new commercial node for Clark County, one that became and remains the principal trade as well as political center of the county.⁹

The county considered the basic issue; they needed money to build a courthouse. Colonel Hiller, et.al, in Februray, 1869, applied to the court for a commission to select a site to locate public buildings and permanently fix the seat of justice. In July, 1869, the commissioners were selected. In a subsequent move an Articles of Agreement formulated by Colonel Hiller, Captain John Hiller, Charles Matlock, John Stafford and John Schee established a plan that they termed the county seat speculation. Kahoka settlers, William Johnson, Moses Clawson, and Miller Duer, who had settled the original village in 1851 were also instrumental. William Johnson sold eighty acres to Colonel Hiller, Charles Matlock, and John Stafford with Colonel Hiram Hiller acting as trustee in the partnership. Hiram and John Hiller purchased an additional fifty acres, also put into the partnership with John Hiller as trustee. Some forty town lots, donated by Johnson, Clawson, Duer and others and \$2,000 subscribed to the company also went into the partnership with John Hiller as trustee. The total securities amounted to \$18,000 with the five co-partners, Colonel Hiller, John Hiller, Matlock, Stafford and Schee, responsible for \$3,600 donations from each to the county. The partnership devised a schedule of payments payable by each of the five members for the construction of a Clark County courthouse.

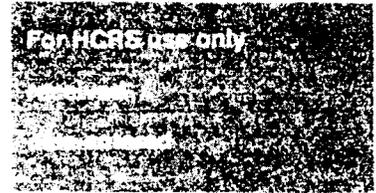
\$1200 at date of acceptance of donation	6000
100 for wood to burn brick for the courthouse	500
300 for stone for the courthouse foundation	1500
600 when the first tier of joists is laid	3000
1000 when the second tier of joists is laid	5000
400 when the courthouse is completed	2000
	<u>\$18,000</u>

The plan was to be administered under the name of Hiller and Company. At the September, 1870, term the county court at Waterloo approved the land title and documentary exhibits in the Kahoka county seat speculation.¹⁰ The county government, which had functioned in a small 43' square two-story brick structure in Waterloo and in another threatened by the Mississippi River in Alexandria, looked forward to a dramatic new public building spacious and safe enough to house all county business and public meetings. There would be a new center of politics and pride as Hiller and Company, at the site of Kahoka, reorganized the county's landscape.¹¹

A Quincy, Illinois architect drew the plans and during 1871, Orr and Conner, artisans from Quincy, erected the courthouse. The county held the first term of court in January, 1872. Meanwhile, surveyors completed the twelve block Hiller subdivision by October, 1871.¹²

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 8 Page 4

In August, 1872, Colonel Hiller, feeling secure that the county seat speculation was launched, and expecting substantial change in Clark County, moved his family from Waterloo to Kahoka (Hiller had also purchased several acres along the south side of Clark City, the competing town for the county seat). In June, 1873, Hiram and Sarah Hiller granted a right of way through their property to the Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska railroad for track and depot.¹³ The fact that Kahoka did not have to move to the railroad insured the survival of the county seat speculation and its development into an active rural Middle West town.

An entity that was not surviving during 1874 was the strength of Radical Republicanism. Complementing a short-lived move by Radicals statewide, Colonel Hiller and Major David McKee promoted a "Third Party or People's Convention" in an attempt to halt the return of Democratic power in Missouri. The local Kahoka paper warned its Democratic readers not to be induced into "their political dragnet."¹⁴

That same year Colonel Hiller, John Hiller, Charles Matlock and others capitalized and founded the first bank in Clark County, the Clark County Savings Bank. Colonel Hiller served as President while William McDermott and John Bourn worked as additional officers. By now Hiller and Company had built the courthouse, surveyed Hiller additions to Kahoka, and founded a bank and business headquarters. By late summer of 1874 Hiller "commenced gathering together material for building a dwelling house on the lots between the residences of John Stafford and Judge McDermott (his business partners).¹⁵ The framing was up on Hiller's house in September, but he did not move into a finished house until May, 1875. Apparently local craftsmen conducted the work. The strategic location of Hiller's house, in sight of the courthouse and four blocks north of the public square (see figures) was a fitting spot for one who had also just become a member of Kahoka's town Board of Trustees.¹⁶

In the spring, 1875, Colonel Hiller and three others formed a committee to forward the movement of a tri-state G.A.R. Soldiers Reunion of Lee County, Iowa, Hancock County, Illinois and Clark County, Missouri to meet at the Opera House in Keokuk, Iowa. The Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska railroad encouraged attendance at the dual celebration of Soldiers Reunion and Decoration Day by offering one-half fares to Keokuk. Official dignitaries included Union officials, General William Sherman, who accepted the role of presiding officer, and ex-governors, Thomas Fletcher of Missouri and Reynolds of Illinois, who delivered addresses.¹⁷

By the nation's Centennial year Hiller and Matlock advertised themselves as attorneys at law, real estate agents, and abstracts of title, a specialty, all housed in an office over Hiller's Clark County Savings Bank.¹⁸ In April, Kahoka voters re-elected the Colonel to the town board of trustees on the "Incorporation Ticket" that was opposed by the "Anti-Taxation and Self-sustaining Ticket." Hiller and two other "incorporation men" sat in majority on the five man board.¹⁹

The following year, 1877, Kahoka became the scene for the Spencer murder case, claimed to be the "most sensational tragedy ever enacted in Clark County." Willis James, a brother-in-law to Mr. Spencer was charged with the multiple murders of all five Spencer family members. In the State of Missouri vs. Willis James, defense attorneys, Matlock and Hiller, received an acquittal for James. Local citizens still enraged and unwilling to accept the verdict subsequently formed a mob and killed James. Regardless of James' fate, the

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 8 Page 5

successful defense by Matlock and Hiller was a role of regional notoriety that in the eyes of some citizens raised the esteem of the law firm of Matlock and Hiller.²⁰

By 1880 Kahoka's population had grown to over 700 and the census surveyor found the Hiller house home to Hiram and Sarah and their six children, one niece and a servant girl, daughter of Irish parents. The Hiller subdivision had attracted a combined artisan-tradesman class and a professional class. In compiling occupations for a number of households on either side of the Hiller house only Matlock and Hiller were listed as lawyers. Other professionals and merchants included a physician, minister, county clerk, printer, sewing machine salesman and a dry goods merchant. Tradesmen listed were three carpenters, a plasterer, stone mason, brick layer, two shoemakers, a farmer, a hay dealer a stock dealer, and a lady keeping house.

When compared to the 1900 census the degree of class segregation in the Hiller subdivision is significant. Colonel Hiller's sons were listed as a lawyer, a physician, and a bank cashier. Additionally, there were nine lawyers, another bank cashier, circuit clerk, county sheriff, county collector, a jeweler, merchant, minister, life insurance agent, and a teacher. Four widows were head of their households and only one laborer was listed. The late nineteenth century increasing class segregation in the Hiller addition obviously made it a very desirable, relatively expensive and certainly a discrete neighborhood in Kahoka. A modern cluster of late nineteenth and turn-of-the-century houses bear witness to this distinct landscape. As elsewhere in Missouri, and during the early twentieth century, the spacious lots in these neighborhoods began to be subdivided and smaller, more modest housing was built for a changing America and changing demographic profiles.

Due to its genesis in space and time the Hiller addition has a general distinction. The leading pacesetter of style on the cultural landscape was a vernacular Victorian-Italianate--the courthouse, Colonel Hiller's house, the Kahoka College in 1885 and a few others. This is in contrast to many urban American neighborhoods where Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic, Second Empire, and eclectic Queen Anne provided the initial stylistic landscape. The Hiller house, as the oldest domestic structure, remains as the prominent landscape anchor in the Hiller and Company development.²¹ Like numerous other post-War towns, the north side professional neighborhood drew domestic service from a black freedman's neighborhood on the northeast edge of town. Kahoka's modern landscape resembles vernacular national styles dating from the post-War generation.

The Hiller addition, located north of the east-west axis of the railroad, also became the location for Kahoka's mainline Protestant churches. Here too, Colonel Hiller's family took foundational roles. Sarah Hiller was a charter member of the Baptist church in 1873 and the Colonel gave liberally to the Presbyterian and both the Northern and Southern branches of the Methodist churches. In fact, the Colonel was the leading donor to the First Methodist Episcopal in its drive for the construction of its 1888 building--he contributed eight town lots worth \$200.²² In keeping with the Hiller promotional spirit the Colonel became a patron of the 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of Clark County.²³

During the 1880s Kahoka doubled its population from a thousand to two thousand and Colonel Hiller continued to sponsor organizations and the construction of buildings for the improvement of Kahoka. In 1881, he petitioned the county court to incorporate the Clark County

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 8 Page 6

Agricultural and Mechanical Association to promote agriculture, manufacturing and stock-raising. Hiller's old friend in county foundings of institutions, Major David McKee, was marshall and a director of the Association. They established a fair grounds on the east side of town where it continues today with annual fairs under modern management. In 1884, Hiller again used his extensive local holdings in real estate to promote an academy. He gave his tract of land at the north end of Washington street as a donation, the largest one in the subscription needed to incorporate the local college. He then agreed to open a street 60' wide around the college. Hiller sat on the committee for the writing of a constitution and set of by-laws and he served on the Board of Directors of the Kahoka College built in 1885. The Colonel's son, Charles Hiller, after returning as a graduate from Parson's College in Fairfield, Iowa, read law in his father's office and entered the family's legal practice. At Kahoka College Charles entertained his love for science as the Field Botanist. Charles and his father began an insurance business affiliated with Hartford Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut. The Hartford-Hiller alliance lasted into the mid-twentieth century. Other young attorneys became schooled in law at the Hiller office including John W. Howard, who after his apprenticeship in the early 1880s, became a member of the Matlock, Hiller and Howard firm.²⁴

In 1894, in the last institution founding by Colonel Hiller in Kahoka, he established the Exchange Bank of Kahoka and staffed it with family--Charles, Harrod, and Robert Hiller. The Colonel put the new banking business in the Hiller Block, a new brick commercial district that he sponsored, located on the west side of the courthouse square. By the 1950s, the Exchange Bank had become the oldest continuous bank in Kahoka. It had over six decades of affiliation with the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago. From \$20,000 in capital stock in 1894, the Bank grew to over \$4,000,000 in 1954. The family banking continued until Hiram Hiller, present owner of the Hiller house, sold the remaining interest in 1962.²⁵

On August 14, 1895, Colonel Hiram Hiller died in a freak railroad accident at Kahoka. This man with a vision of major advances in American society lived to see the implementation of much in his own town. The tragic end of Kahoka's primary promoter of the Victorian period apparently stirred some county citizens to name the new G.A.R. post at Alexandria in his honor. The Colonel's daughter, Lida Hiller Lapsley, used her father's Victorian library to create a local lending library and the holdings were eventually given to expand the county library. The Colonel himself participated in a central role that saw the village of Kahoka grow from 200 to over 2,000 during thirty years.²⁶

The contemporary obituary in the Clark County Gazette rehearsed a few of the Colonel's accomplishments in upbuilding Kahoka. The editor especially pointed to the Colonel's role as the "leading and active spirit in having the county seat located at Kahoka," and recognized Hiller's handsome profits in his real estate investments. He concluded of Colonel Hiller that "no other person in Clark County has had such extensive business dealings with all classes...he served as a county officer, attorney, real estate and insurance man, a progressive citizen...his name will always be interwoven with the early history of Kahoka."²⁷

The Hiller family built several houses near the Colonel's Kahoka homeplace. Descendants chose prevailing styles that gave diversity to the neighborhood. Sam Hiller built a

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 8 Page 7

Georgian Revival-Cubic house, George Hiller built an eclectic Queen Anne residence, and Harrod Hiller built a large pattern-book California bungalow. But it is the patriarch's house at 570 North Washington street, still in family ownership, that remains as a cultural and locational symbol of Colonel Hiram Hiller's pivotal and influential role in Kahoka history during the late nineteenth century. Hiram Hiller's great-grandson, who was born in the house, perceived the importance of local heritage and his family's instrumental role in the region; thus, over twenty years ago, he embarked on an ambitious restoration and remodeling of the cultural resource.

The rigorous work, sense of accomplishment and commitment to historic preservation spawned a New Year's Day Open House hosted by Anne and Hiram Hiller. Up to 220 guests now arrive New Year's Day at one of the tri-state region's landmarks. Quincy, Illinois; Keokuk, Iowa; Hannibal, Missouri; and Clark County friends and associates of the Hiller family over the years join in refreshments, snacks, singing and dancing to celebrate their fellowship and the survival of the Hiller house. Featured in several regional newspapers for twenty years now, there is no doubt that in an "Old Homes and Landmarks" series citizens recognize "Though there has been at least a half-dozen Kahoka houses properly designated Hiller homes this one is the oldest and has retained the image of parental home to the Hiller offspring since it was built."²⁸

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hiller Family Papers, Kahoka, Missouri
Clark County Records, Kahoka, Missouri
State Historical Society of Missouri, Ellis Library, Columbia, various sources;
see endnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name KAHOKA, MO.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 38, lots 1 and 2, of the Hiller Addition to the town of Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri (See figures 1 through 4)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Lynn Morrow

organization Kalen and Morrow date June 1, 1985

street & number 504 Crestland telephone 314-443-4916

city or town Columbia state Missouri 65203

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Frederick A. Brunner, Ph.D., P.E., Director, Department of Natural Resources and

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/29/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 9 Page 1

1. The other two are the New England village and California Suburbia, D.W. Meinig, The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979:164-70.
2. Hiller Family Papers, Kahoka, Missouri.
3. Hiller Family Papers.
4. Hiller Family Papers.
5. History of Lewis, Clark, Knox and Scotland Counties, Missouri, reprint of 1887 edition by Walsworth Publishing Company, Marceline, Missouri for the Knox County Historical Society, 1981:391.
6. Colonel Hiram Hiller military records, Hiller Family Papers.
7. Dozens of orders and correspondence related to Hiller's command in southeast Missouri may be found in the (Colonel) William McLane Collection, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri, Columbia.
8. Clark County, Caldwell file, State Historical Society of Missouri. The Association grew to over a thousand chapters and 50,000 members in several states.
9. History of Lewis, Clark...1981:289, 923.
10. See Articles of Agreement in the Hiller Family Papers and History of Lewis, Clark...1981:286-87.
11. Marion Ohman, Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses, Columbia: UMC Extension, 1981: Clark County.
12. History of Lewis, Clark...1981:287, 351-52.
13. Recorder of Deeds, Book 29, page 580, Clark County courthouse.
14. Clark County Gazette, 13 August 1874.
15. Clark County Gazette, 13 August 1874; History of Lewis, Clark...1981:353-54. The \$50,000 of capitalized stock was the largest stock pool for any bank established in Clark County.
16. Clark County Gazette, 20 May 1875 and 13 May 1875. In the diary of Hiram M. Hiller, Jr. for Sunday, 28 December 1884 he wrote, "it is foggy and all the traces and roofs are dripping. I could not see the court house when I got up."
17. Other members of the Clark County G.A.R. committee were Major David McKee, John Schee and Matt Woodruff, Gazette 15 April 1875; Gazette 27 May 1875 and 3 June 1875. Apparently one of the traditional highlights of the Tri-State Soldiers Reunion was Captain John

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller house Item number 9 Page 2

Hiller's recitation of his original poem, "Dan, the Slave." See Clark County Courier 1 October 1897.

18. Gazette 20 April 1876.
19. Gazette 6 April 1876.
20. History of Lewis, Clark...1981:321-24.
21. Compilations from 1880 and 1900 censuses by author. For a larger comparison, see Robert Bastian, "Architecture and Class Segregation in Late Nineteenth-Century Terre Haute, Indiana," Geographical Review April, 1975:166-79. According to local intelligence and the author's windshield survey there is perhaps only one other domestic structure in Kahoka older than the Colonel Hiram Hiller house. It is a c1860s double pile Greek Revival cottage at the southeast edge of the original town plat.
22. "Kahoka M.E. Church," Clark County WPA Collection 3551 f.5303 Joint Manuscripts, UMC and Colonel Hiller obituary in Hiller Family Papers.
23. See An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Clark County, Missouri, Philadelphia: Edwards Bros. of Missouri, 1878.
24. History of Lewis, Clark...1981:264, 394-95; "Kahoka," in Missouri State Gazeteer and Business Directory, St. Louis: R.L. Polk, publisher 1891-92: Hartford Insurance award certificate located in Hiller Insurance Company, Kahoka, Missouri; History of Lewis, Clark...1981:905.
25. Clark County in WPA Collection 3551 f.5438, Joint Manuscripts, UMC; interview with Hiram Hiller 4 May 1985; Clark County Courier 2 November 1954.
26. G.A.R. clippings and interview with the secretary of the Clark County Historical Society 4 May 1985; interview with Hiram Hiller 4 May 1985.
27. Obituary in Clark County Gazette n.d. (c1895) Hiller Family Papers.
28. Keokuk Daily Gate City 11 October 1968.

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Continuation sheet Colonel Hiram Hiller House Item number 11

Page 1

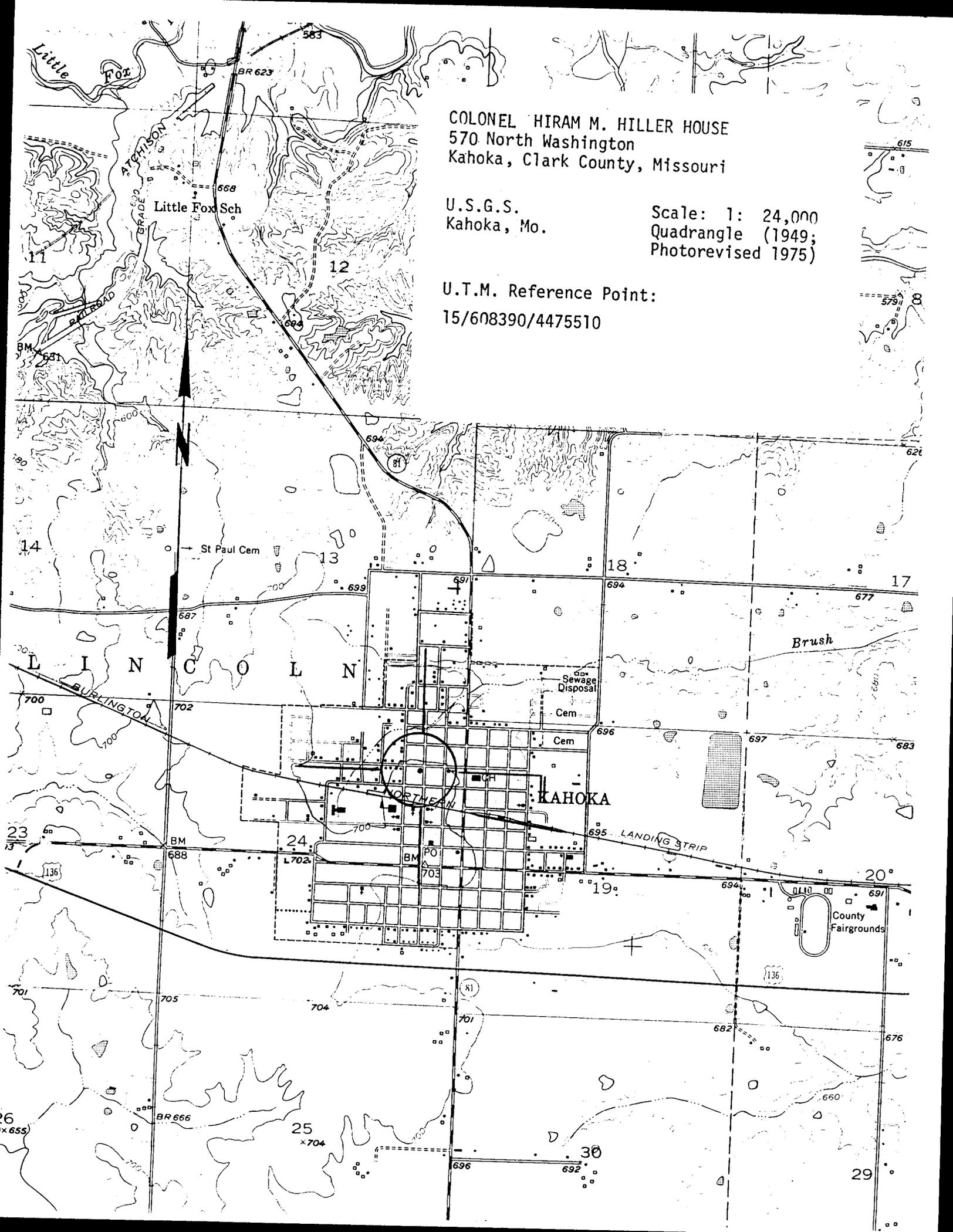
2. James M. Denny
Chief, Survey & Registration
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Phone: 314/751-4096
Date: August 6, 1985

COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE
570 North Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri

U.S.G.S.
Kahoka, Mo.

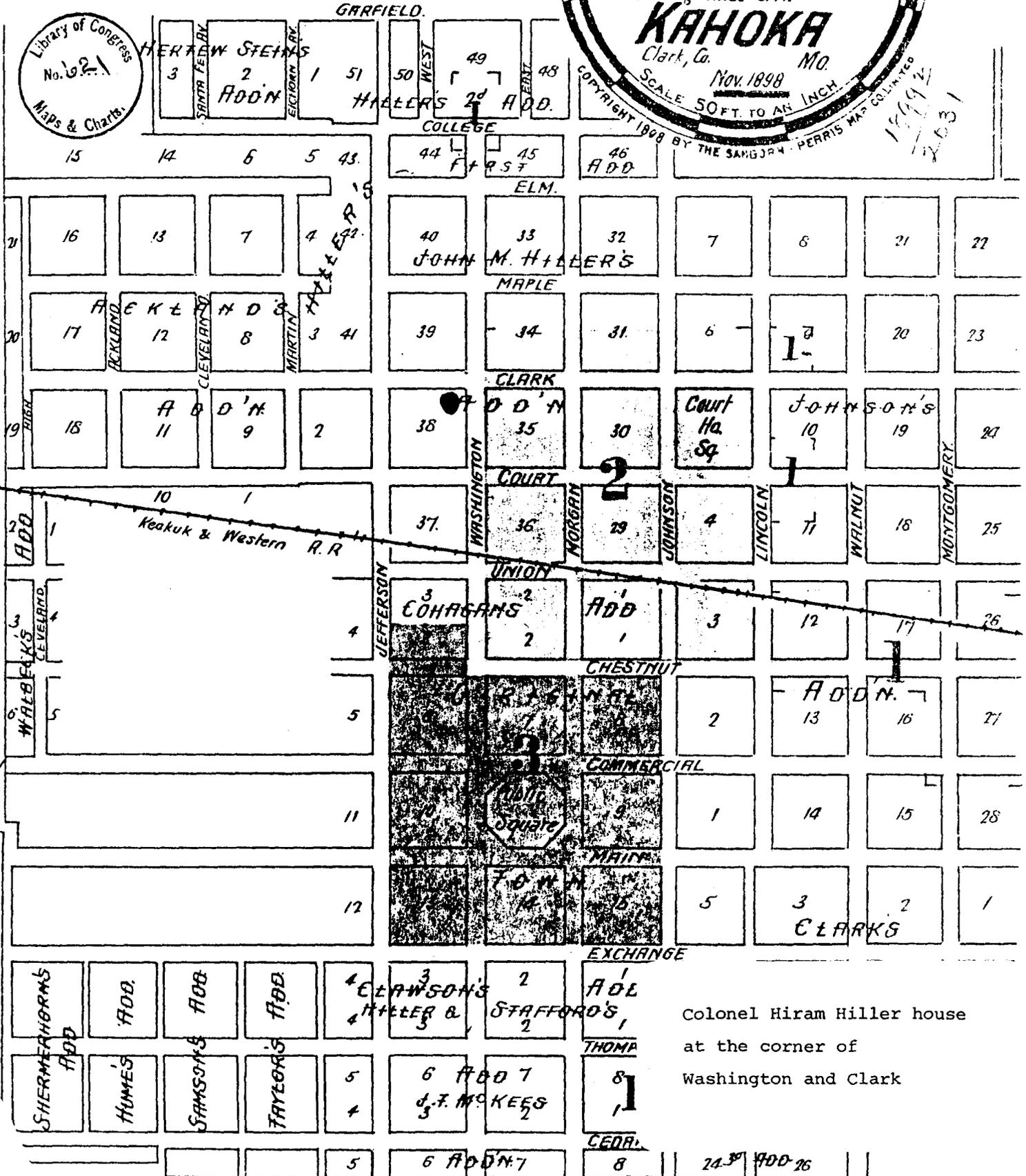
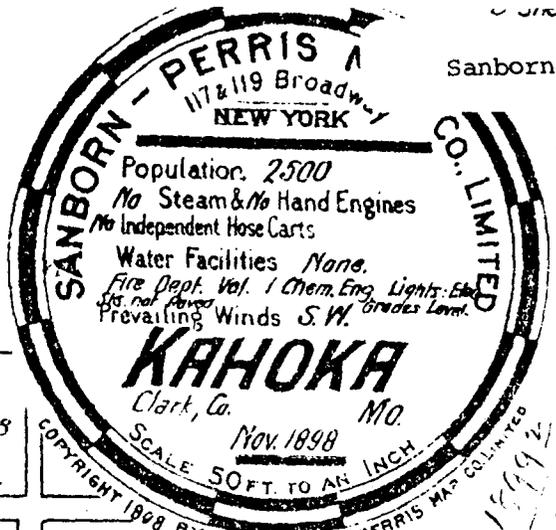
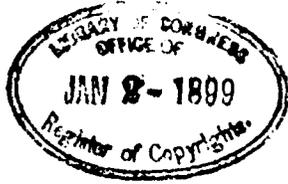
Scale: 1: 24,000
Quadrangle (1949;
Photorevised 1975)

U.T.M. Reference Point:
15/608390/4475510



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Sanborn 1898



Colonel Hiram Hiller house at the corner of Washington and Clark

Hills
L. Marsh

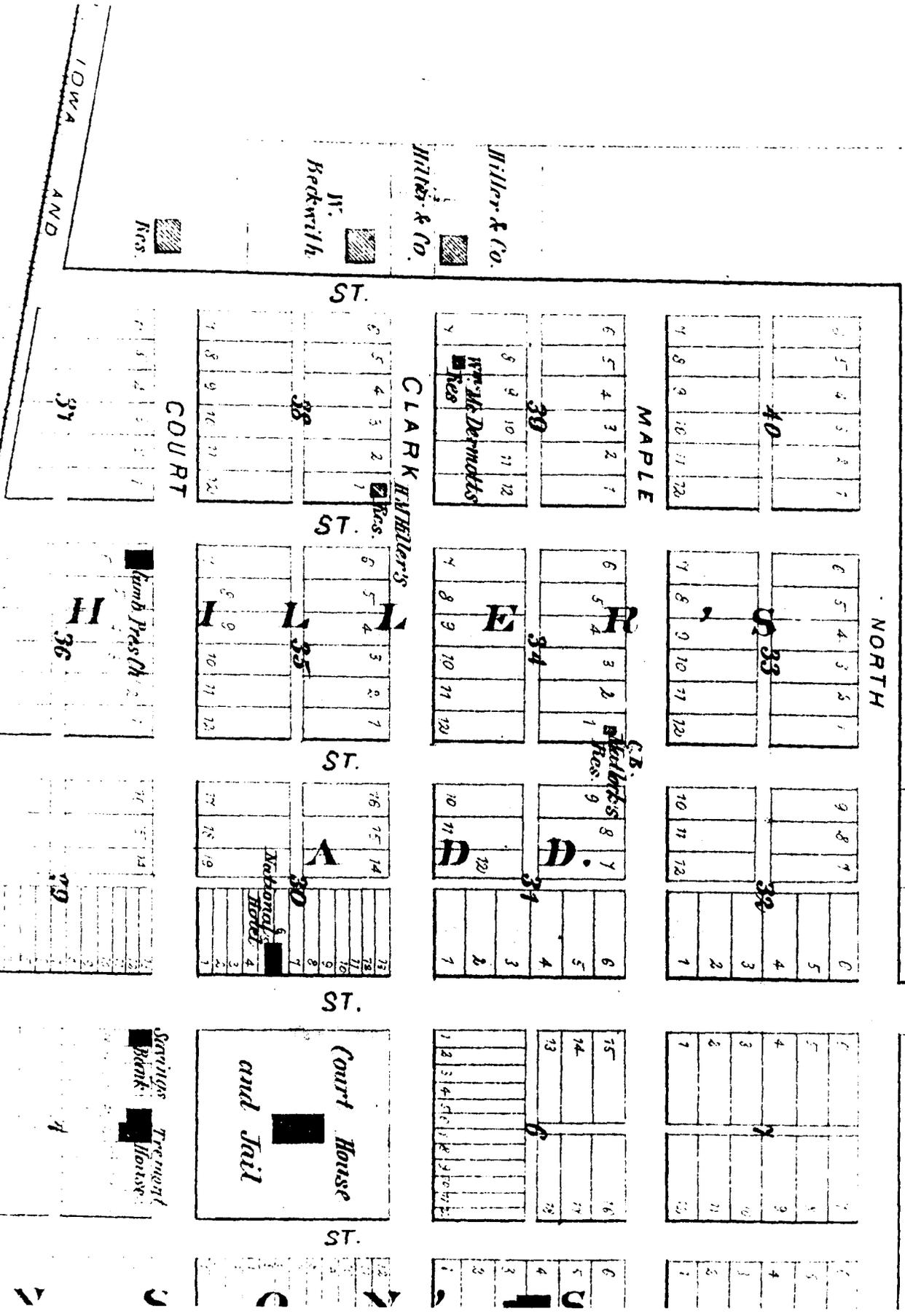
Corporation

Hiller & Co.

Hiller
& Co.
Newmaster

Atlas, 1878

LINE



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE
510 N. Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri

Figure #2

1878 Atlas, close up of Hiller's Addition

COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE 1 of 20
510 N. Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May, 1985
Neg. Loc.: History & Historic
Preservation Research and
Consultation
504 Crestwood
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Looking northwest at south and east facades.



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE

2 of 20

510 N. Washington

Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

Photographer: Lynn Morrow

Date: May, 1985

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Looking southwest at east and north facades.



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE

3 of 20

510 N. Washington

Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

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Date: May, 1985

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Looking southeast at north and west facades.



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE 4 of 20
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Looking southeast at second story detail
on north facade.

stop
side



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE
510 N. Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

5 of 20

Photographer: NA
Date: 1880
Neg. Loc.: History & Historic
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Historic photograph c. 1880 looking northwest
(Hiller Family Papers).

Colonel Hiram

c. 1880, Hill



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE 6 of 20
510 N. Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

Photographer: NA
Date: c. 1900
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A gathering of Hiller youth and friends at
the turn of the century. Note the Hiller
House and tennis court in the background.

A gathering of Hi
friends at the tu
century. Note th
and tennis court
ground.



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE 7 of 20
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Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

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East facade porch.



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE 8 of 20
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Front door on east facade.

front door 8



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Detail of front door entry on east facade.

front door



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Detail of porch post (Southeast corner of
house).



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Door leading to servants' stairs on North
facade.

door leading to
servant's stairs



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Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

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Interior door, molding, and transom in living
room looking east through hallway out the
front door.

example of interior
molding and transom



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Detail of Newel post - main stairs.



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Living room looking at south bay window -
(note handpainted globe at far right corner).

living room and
globe at far rig



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Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

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Living room looking north into den (note
original Hiller furnishings).

original Hiller
in the living ro



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510 N. Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May, 1985
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Dining room looking toward northwest at entry
to servants' stairs (note original Hiller
furnishings).

antique Hille
the dining ro



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE 17 of 20
510 N. Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May, 1985
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Detail of moldings and doorway leading from
dining room to the rear servants' stairs.

moldings and doorway leading
from the dining room to the
rear servant's stairs



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE

18 of 20

510 N. Washington

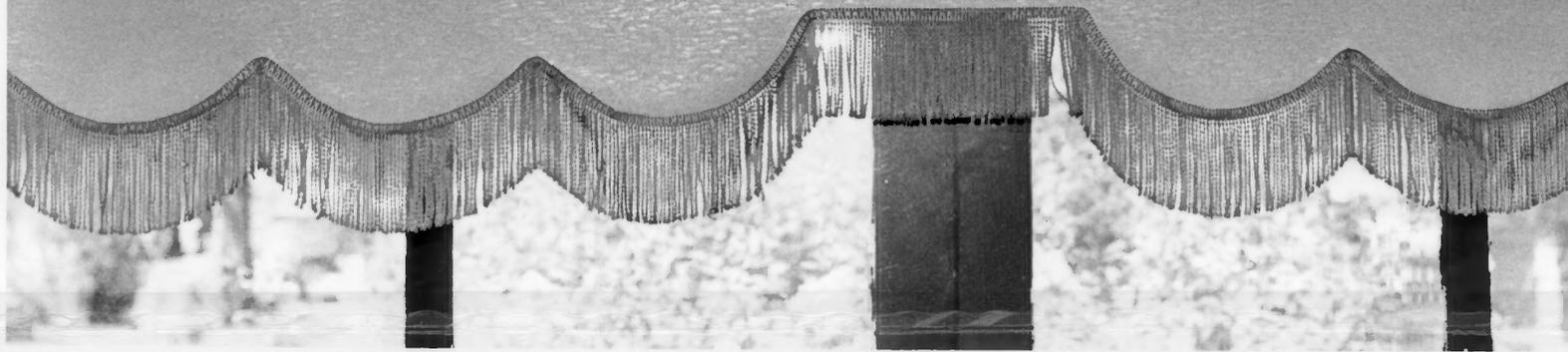
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

Photographer: Lynn Morrow

Date: May, 1985

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Detail of leaded stain glass window (in den -
north side of house).



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE 19 of 20
510 N. Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

Photographer: Lynn Morrow
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Upstairs northeast bedroom (note: original
Hiller furnishings).

original Hiller ant
furnishings in upst
bedroom

NE bedroom

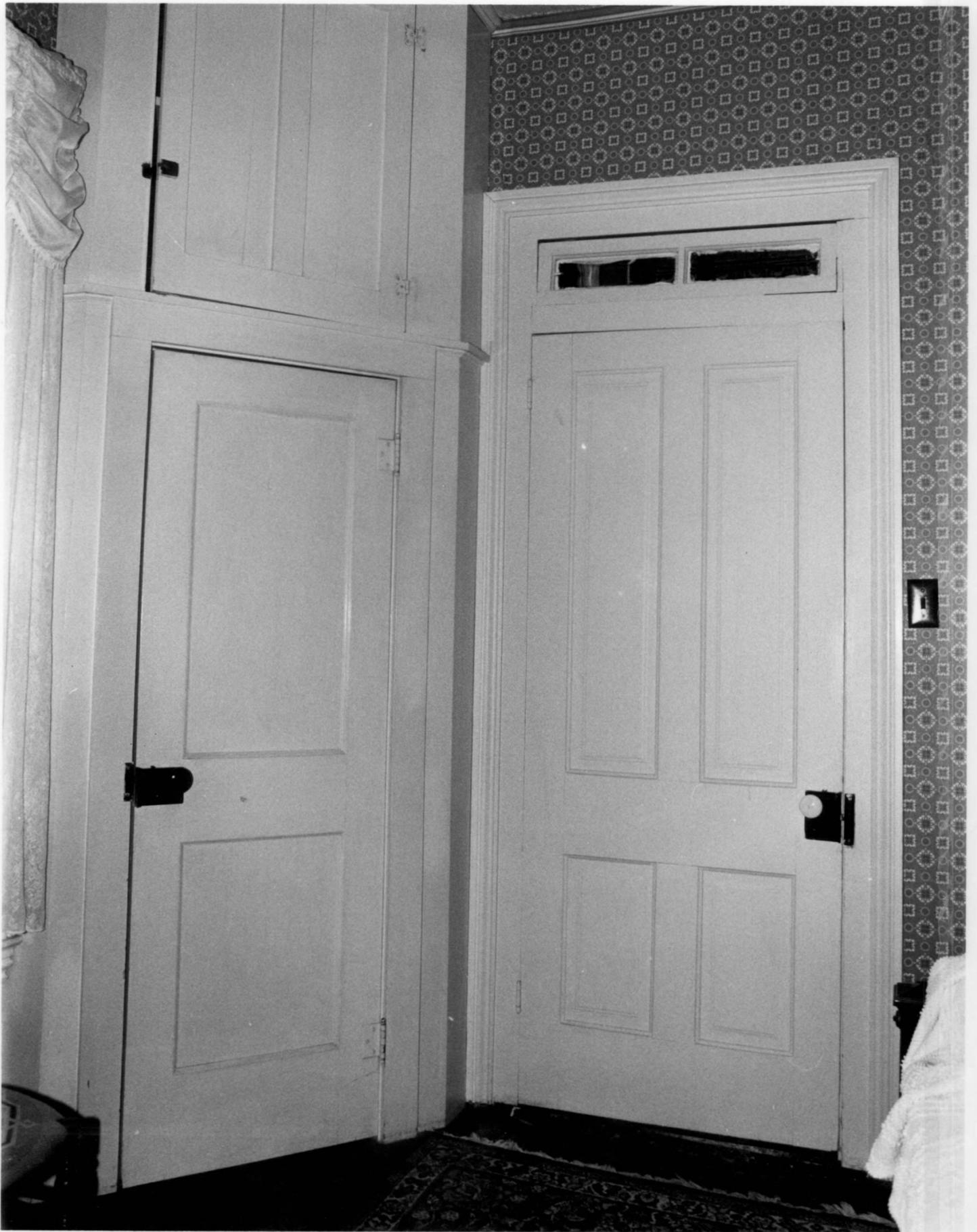


COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE 20 of 20
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Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri 63445

Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May, 1985
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Detail of moldings and doorway (and closet)
in upstairs northeast bedroom.

sample of upstairs moldings
and doorway



COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE
510 N. Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri

Figure #1

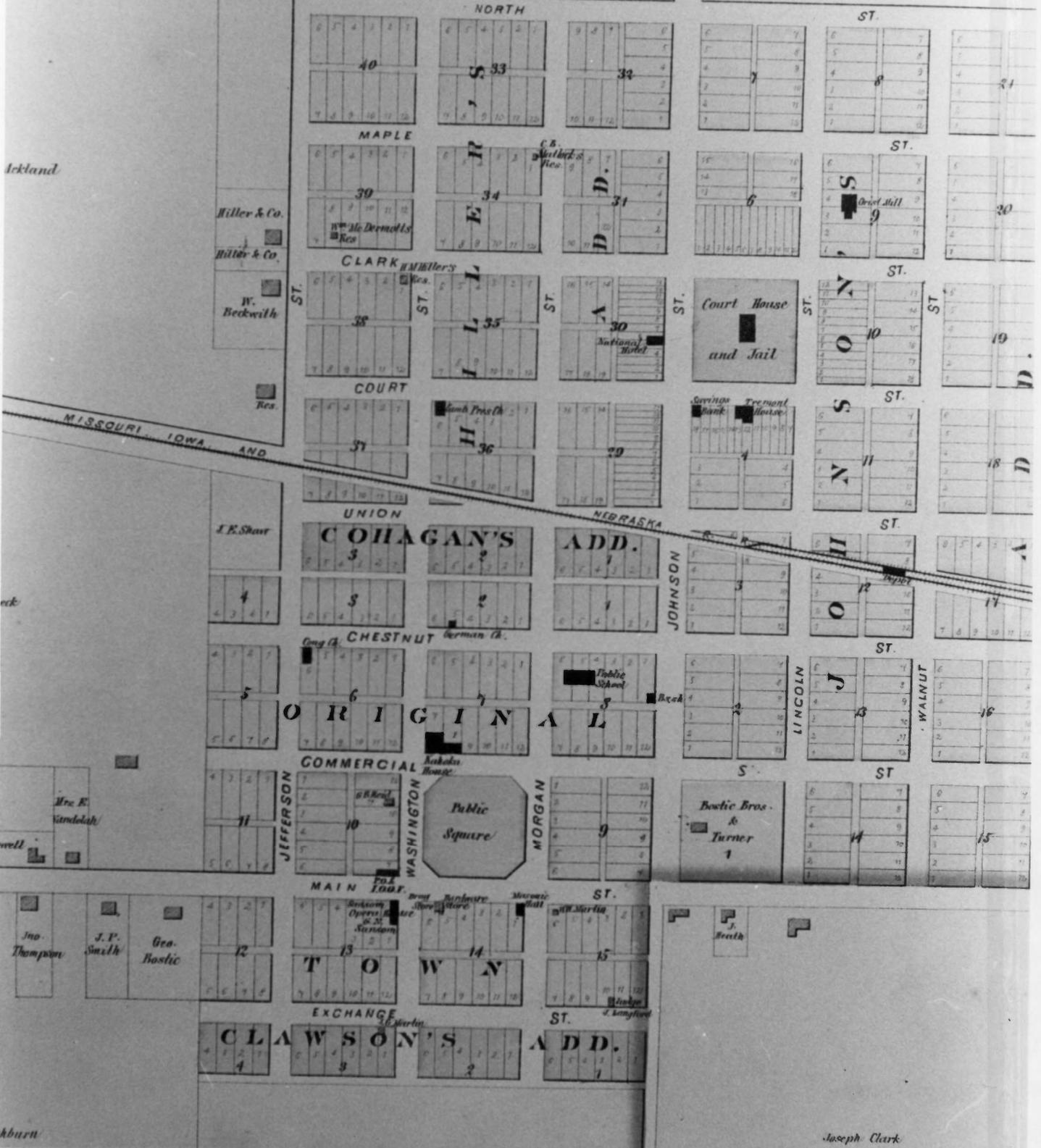
1878 Atlas

KANOKA

Atlas, 1878

Scale 300 ft. to in.

Corporation
Miller & Co.
C. Newmaster
Miller & Co.
Line
W. N. Wallace



ORIGINAL

J. E. Shaw

Miller & Co.

Miller & Co.

W. Beckwith

J. E. Shaw

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COLONEL HIRAM M. HILLER HOUSE
510 N. Washington
Kahoka, Clark County, Missouri

Figure #2

1878 Atlas, close up of Hiller's Addition

Corporation

Hiller & Co.

G. Butts
L. Marsh

C. Hiller
Newmaster & Co.

Atlas, 1878

Line

NORTH

6	5	4	3	2	1
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8	9	10	11	12	

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IOWA AND

Hiller & Co.
Hiller & Co.

W. Beckwith

Res.

CLARK HILLER'S

MAPLE

40

39

Wm. McDermott's Res

38

COURT

37

33

34

ELER

ILL

35

36

Comb Press Ch

C.B. Ketchum's Res

31

30

29

National Hotel

Court House and Jail

Savings Bank Tremont House